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SEWER CONTRACTORS WIN THEIR PRIZE.

Supreme Court Says Property Owners Must Pay Special Bills to Obtain Connection.

Property owners in St. Louis can hereafter obtain connection with district sewers only after the special tax bills levied against their property for building the sewers have been paid, according to a decision handed down yesterday by the Supreme Court of Missouri.

The decision was rendered in the case of Hill and Abbot, contractors, against the

city of St. Louis. The action originally grew out of the refusal of Mrs. Ida Peck to pay a special tax bill for a sewer built through her premises. Hill and Abbott had the contract for the work. After it was completed, the Sewer Commissioner refused to allow Mrs. Peck to connect with the sewer. This was on the basis of a special provision in the city charter forbids any property holder to connect with a district sewer until this special tax bill for the building of such sewer is paid.

Application was made to Judge Filmeraff for a writ of mandamus compelling the Sewer Commissioner to issue a permit for the connection. Judge Filmeraff granted the writ and this decision was sustained by the St. Louis

The case was appealed to the Supreme Court and arguments were heard by that

law firm of Collins, Jamison & Chappell represented the plaintiffs. The opinion handed down yesterday was written by Judge Marshall. It sustains Judge Talty's decision, thereby setting aside the ruling of Judge Filcraft and the St. Louis Court of Appeals.

PROPOSITION CONSIDERED.

Guggenheims Ask for \$25,000,000

New York, Dec. 18.—Directors of the American Smelting and Refining Company today announced the regular quarterly dividend of 13 1/2 per cent on the preferred stock. No action was taken in the matter of a dividend on the common shares.

It was admitted by a director that the matter of acquiring the Guggenheim properties, or consolidating with those interests, was informally discussed, but he said that nothing definite was done.

It is admitted by a director that negotiations for the union of the interests

have been carried on more or less earnestly for many months, but that nothing more than a tentative proposition has come from either side. Report has it that the Guggen-

Heims have placed a valuation of from \$25,000,000 to \$32,000,000 on their properties, and that these figures were being considered by the other side.

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